

COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

MINUTES

November 8, 2006

Attendees:

Major General Todd Bunting – Adjutant General
Col. William Seck – Kansas Highway Patrol
Dick Morrissey – Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Jack Taylor – Fire Chief, City of Emporia
Karen Schuyler – ASTARS
Kevin Moles – Wolf Creek Generating Plant
Randy Duncan – Chairman, Sedgwick County Emergency Management
Kim Steves – Kansas Department of Commerce
Dr. Lyle Noordhoek – Central Plains Laboratory

Members of public and support staff were also in attendance

Members not in Attendance:

Ken Schremmer – Barton County Commission
Jaci Vogel – Kansas Department of Transportation
Dan Thompson – State Fire Marshal's Office
Dick Heitschmidt – City of Hutchinson
Mark Krentz – Kansas Department of Transportation

Meeting

- Meeting opened at 10:01 AM
- Remarks from Committee Members and Introduction of Panel including new appointments
- Floor opened for public and committee comments. An announcement was made informing the committee of current success in training of over 500 people in Transportation thanks to the cooperation of CPERS. An additional announcement was made regarding the US tour of TRANSCARE training.
- Minutes from April 29, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved
 - Dr. Noordhoek moved, and Jack Taylor seconded the motion, approval of the minutes; the motion passed unanimously
- Committee Reports:
 - Presentation and remarks on the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team Report's Mitigation Project Activity in Kansas Since 2002 were made by Charlie McGonigle. Further details of this presentation are available in the meeting handouts.
 - Randy Duncan facilitated a brief discussion regarding two legislative issues which often come up concerning Hazard Mitigation. The first concerning the difficulties which come up when counties have difficulty developing or approving plans which may not fall in compliance with FEMA regulations. Specifically, difficulties arise when correlations between a county and state are not consistent. Cities may be omitted from county plans since only counties are

eligible for FEMA funds. Randy stated that it would be beneficial if these frustrations could be effectively conveyed to FEMA.

- Secondly, it was announced that there is current legislation underway that will increase the percentage of funds for Hazard Mitigation from the current 7.5% to 15%, or even up to 20% for managing states.

○ LEPC Appointment Committee

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Frank Moussa

- Frank Moussa reported that Kearny County is putting forth good faith effort to come into substantial compliance with LEPC and asked that a motion be put forth to accept Kearny County as a member of the Regional Council. Kevin Moles moved; the motion was seconded by Col. Seck and passed unanimously.
- Following Frank's presentation was a brief discussion concerning the committee's by-laws regarding the level of participation of individuals sitting in for absent representatives. Kim Steves, sitting in for Dick Morrissey, wanted to know what level of participation was afforded her. It was determined that her level of participation is equal to that of the individual she is representing.

○ Emergency Alert System

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Bill Nolan

- Bill Nolan provided an update on the progress of the EAS project, which began two years ago, integrating NOAA and the Amber Alert System into the state network of broadcasters. A contract between the State of Kansas and NOAA has recently been signed, allowing for the installation of EAS equipment ready and waiting to be installed in areas still needing EAS equipment. New equipment will also act as repair patches and will compensate in situations of unmaintained equipment. NOAA equipment will provide the backbone of the statewide emergency system and will eventually ensure intercommunication throughout the state, whether an emergency is local, statewide or nationwide. Now that an agreement has been signed, the state Emergency Alert System Plan will be rewritten to reflect abilities of the updated system. Randy Duncan announced that a meeting of Broadcasters will be meeting in Wichita on the 14th and would be interested in Bill Nolan's information. Bill is scheduled to attend that meeting. Bill also mentioned that in addition to audio announcements, the new system is capable of transmitting digital information. The Amber system in fact allows for the broadcasting of images to all system units, including portable units in emergency vehicles, independent of local broadcasting stations. Without the NOAA and Amber system, local broadcasting stations are responsible for manually entering visual information. The improved Emergency Alert System also incorporates satellite technology. One attendee asked if the new system could be used in the case of a "stop movement" situation. Bill assured her that it could. In fact, the NOAA system is designed to handle a myriad of emergencies, many of which are codified for easy entry. Some discussion regarding FCC regulations and area compliance ensued.

○ Homeland Security Working Group

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Randy Mettner

- Randy Mettner reports that the Homeland Security Working Group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Currently, twenty to thirty people attend. Randy reports that these meetings are very effective for sharing information among all areas of emergency planning and a variety of state agencies involved in emergency management.

- New Business
 - Mutual Aid Update and Other Legislation - Randy Mettner
 - Randy updated the committee on Mutual Aid legislation. The most significant change involves the Intrastate Emergency Aid Legislation. Members wishing to opt out must take legislative action to do so. In other words, if an area is unable or unwilling to come into compliance with FEMA's Intrastate Emergency Aid, they must take legislative action to opt out of the Mutual Aid provision. Homeland Security Regional Councils are statutory committees, so its duties and powers are subject to Kansas Law. One objective of the committee is to involve the private sector into Homeland Security regionalization. Additions will also include the KBI, the Livestock Commissioner, Agriculture, Transport (Truck and Rail), EMS, public works, Tribes and members from each region. Ideally, the committee will be tremendously representative of the service area. A representative from the Dept. of Agriculture expressed willingness and interest in supporting this endeavor. It may also be advisable to include the Dept. of Education and Community Colleges in this membership.
- Meeting recessed for break at 10:57 AM and reconvened at 11:17 AM
- Regional Council Reports
 - The State of Kansas is composed of seven Homeland Security regions and was created Oct. 5, 2005. Today's focus will be to review the purpose of each region and to identify future goals. It is the intent of the Regional Council to maintain its grassroots, "bottom up" structure and encourage collaborative work among its members.
 - Northwest Regional Council - Toby Prine
 - Toby Prine reported that the NW Region's membership of 31 is composed of 18 county representative, 11 functional representative and 2 members at large. Because of the nature of the region and the expertise of the membership, Toby observed that the NW region has plenty of agricultural background. Meetings of the NW region have been held monthly since April of 2006 and are held in Hoxie, Kansas, because of its central location in relation to the region. Toby also gave an overview of the NW region's current activities and included in his report an allocation of the funds the NW region has received for such activities. Toby also cited that the largest concern for emergency management in the NW region is its lack of human resources. The region has sufficient equipment, but volunteers often have to fill several roles or positions when there is a large event. If the area were to experience a tragedy such as the structure collapse that occurred in Clinton, Mo., emergency workers and volunteers would have to fill multiple roles, not an ideal position. Toby next described the successes experienced in his region in response to local emergencies, citing that the best training experience is a real event. The NW region has approached each occurrence as an opportunity to weigh the region's strengths and weaknesses and to make appropriate adjustments.
- Break for working lunch at 11:57 AM. Meeting reconvened at 12:20 PM.
 - North Central Regional Council - Dennis Colsden

- Dennis Coltsden reported that Council Membership for the North Central region totals 21 and that while there has been some recent turnover, replacements have been easily found. Meetings for the North Central Meeting are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month and are held in Beloit, Kansas, unless otherwise announced. Dennis gave an overview of the area's Current Activities, which includes four projects, noting that the largest allocation of funds has been towards the Interoperate Communications project, since that represents the area's greatest need at this time. North Central's accomplishments include the completions of 21 training exercises and Web-EOC training and NIMS in several location. While most counties in the North Central Region have accepted SLA/EMPG funds and terms, one county remains reticent. Members of the North Central Regional Council also participate regularly in LEPC, Pan-Flu Planning, KEMA, EMSAK, Regional Hospital, and Public Health Regional Meetings.
- Northeast Regional Council - Bill Brubaker
 - Bill Brubaker reported that there are 33 voting members in the Northeast region and that the council meets from 10:00 to 2:00 on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Topeka Fire Headquarters. NE region's current activities include 10 approved projects out of 21 possible proposals. In addition, the region is currently focusing on compiling and processing necessary paperwork for the Highway Patrol fiscal process. Bill noted that the NE region is one of the most populous and busy in the state, representing a rather large learning curve for member of the council. Among NE region's accomplishments are the establishment of several cork committees and approval of a number of investments for 2007, including equipment and programs.
- Kansas City Metro Regional Council - Keith Yoder
 - Keith Yoder reported that the council's membership was built on previous Homeland Security committee member and further stated that all committee members are invited to participate and that decisions are made by a consensus of three chairs. While an appeal board is present, Keith does not anticipate any future situations that would require the use of the appeal board. Current activities of the KC Metro region include: investment in a Mass Casualty Incident trailer, Med Surge considerations, a number of training and exercise programs and a Citizen Corps and Citizen Education program. Accomplishments noted are: an improved bi-state regional collaboration, aggressive training, interregional coordination and support of local emergency management. The public expressed a great deal of interest in what authority is in place to initiate regional emergency response. Currently the regional coordinator is developing a Regional Response Plan that will include an overall plan. Importantly, response is based on a mutual aid plan rather than on a state plan. There was also a great deal of interest expressed in the patient tracking system the Metro area uses (or will use) in Mass Casualty situations. Patient tracking will be based on a patient identification number or a triage tag that is place on the patient's wrist as a wrist band.
- Southwest Regional Council - Matt Mercer
 - Matt Mercer reported that the region has 34 members plus a Fiscal Agent. These 34 members include representative from all counties and all discipline. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each quarter. Matt notes that the members are starting to think in terms of regional concerns rather than simply

local concerns. Projects for Fiscal Year 2006 have included Interoperable Communications, investment in Deployable Response Resources and Emergency Exercises, including Animal Emergencies. The SW region has also invested in Citizen Preparedness through the Red Cross and has invested in Fiscal Management and Administration. Activities over the past year has included County Level Exercises involving PanFlu, BioT, Terrorism, Natural Disaster, HazMat and Airport emphasis. The SW region also assisted other regional coordinators with eight different exercises. Training in the regions consists of EOC, KDOR identity security (of special concern given the area's proximity to the TX panhandle), and FAD. SW Regional partners include Hospital Region, PH Region (3), County LEPCs, County Elected Officials, VOAD, KEMA, SKSEMS, and State Agencies.

- South Central Regional Council - Jim Leftwich
 - Jim Leftwich reported that South Central Regional Council membership is made of 32 members, including the Chairman, Vice Chair and a Fiscal Agent. Jim expects membership to expand. Currently the membership meets on a monthly basis, though more frequent meeting times are possible as needed. Meetings are held all member counties in order to enable county commissioners to attend at least one meeting and to get a sense of purpose. Current activities of the South Central Region include 10 projects involving Incident Management, Regional Training, 911 communication, EMS Communication (and the purchase of a 800 MHz radio), Law Enforcement training and equipment purchase. The Region's accomplishments include development of procedure for project submittal, expansion of council membership, outreach to the private sector and raising regional awareness of the HLS council. Noted accomplishments of the region are: providing a forum for discussing issues, overcoming possible misunderstandings and developing new ideas in a collaborative spirit. Other accomplishments include the facilitation of cooperative regional relationships.
 - The Committee collectively contributed various points of view in order to clarify the structure of regional councils in relation to the Adjutant General's office. Maj Gen Todd Bunting explained that regional assessments for funding is left to the regions since they are best qualified to determine the needs their composite counties. Each region then presents a request to the Adjutant General's office, who works to see that funds are applied as needed. It is much more efficient to work with 7 regions rather than 110 counties. The Adjutant General's office collaborates with the Kansas Highway Patrol to access funds and distribute them to the regions as determined. The Kansas model of distributing funds and meeting emergency planning needs is considered exemplary and one which other States will likely emulate. Formalization of the current model is not likely or necessarily desired, since the relationships being developed through regionalization efforts will withstand time or legislation. Authority for events falls within regional plans and may be formalized if desired through a Memorandum of Understanding for those regions wishing same.
- Southeast Regional Council - Jackie Miller
 - Jackie Miller reported there are currently 23 voting members compiling the Southeast Region Council Membership and that membership comprises of functional disciplines including APCO and county representatives. While there are no agriculture or volunteer representatives at this time, Jackie hopes such membership will be added in time. Meetings of the SE Regional Council meet

as needed. Current activities include investment in Haz Mat team equipment, Interoperable Communication, development and training of a Rope Rescue Team as well as a Regional Rescue Team. Other projects include Foreign Animal Disease training and exercise, IMT, Command/Staging tent for large activities, purchase of an 800 MHz communication device for MERGe and WMD training for First Responders. Jackie counted relationship building, regional thinking, thinking beyond grant allocation and discussion of regional exercises to be among the area's accomplishments this year.

- At the conclusion of Jackie's presentation, Randy Duncan initiated discussion over the role of Council Coordinators. Contributions from the public resulted in a general description of the role of Council Coordinators including the following aspects:
 - Coordinators act as a glue to facilitate and encourage regional cooperation and communication, perhaps applying pressure in appropriate degrees when necessary. Coordinators are non-voting members.
 - The relationships established with the assistance of coordinators now will likely continue long after grant money has been exhausted.

- SCRAPE Exercise and AAR

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Matt Mercer

- Matt Mercer Briefed the committee on Homeland Security's Foreign Animal Disease and State and County Response and Partnership Exercise held October 20-21, 2006 in Grant and Stanton Counties, SEOC. The purpose of the exercise was to run a stop movement drill based on a tabletop exercise to test real time communications, coordination and tactics. While there were some frustrations, the experiences allowed real interaction between animal health and county workers, who have no other opportunity to interact. Objectives include evaluation of timeliness, effectiveness, interoperability, and to acquire a sense of intercommunication issues. Evaluation of NIMS, ECS and Command Control were also listed as an objective. Matt reported on the Exercise Team members and described the Exercise and Drill to get a sense of border issues in a stop movement situation. There will be a stop movement training video available on KS-train based on the results of the training. Matt reviewed lessons learned from the exercise, suggesting preplanning to provide plenty of advance notice to regions interested in the training.
- Randy Duncan asked for clarification of the role of Homeland Security coordinators in relation to the Regional Councils. Observations made include:
 - Coordinators are present as representatives of the agency and serve to inform regional counties of Homeland Security news, regulations or other pertinent information. The coordinators also act as part of the continuity between the regional council and volunteers.
 - A member of the public asked if there is a difference between KEM and HS. The response was that Homeland Security is an umbrella under which the Adjutant General and KEM exists, whose focus includes Homeland Security. Distinction should be made that EMS is a statutory entity.
 - Regional Coordinators are part of all Hazard Plans at the regional as well as the county level. Ideally, no region will be overly dependant on the HS coordinator role. Coordinators are chosen based on their high tolerance for ambiguity.
 - Coordinators serve as a tool to direct money to needed projects and to help enhance programs.

- Communication Assessment Team - Dan Hay
 - Dan Hay reported on the progress of the Kansas Emergency Communication Assessment project administered by KDEM. Dan noted that communication is an issue of priority in the state as there are still many spots in which there are no communication options other than using a land line. The purpose of the assessment is to determine current interoperability used by each emergency dispatch center in the state as well as interoperability requirements for same. The process used by KDEM to compile assessment information has included sending letters to Regional Coordinators, with copies to county sheriff, contacting dispatch centers and distributing assessments forms to each and collecting the assessment forms. After assessments are completed and processed, the information will be compiled in a synopsis report, transferred to soft copy and burned onto CD data format. The information will be forwarded in the form of a report to the Adjutant General. A copy of the assessment form was made available to attendees and can be found in the meeting notes.

- Citizen Corps - Dori Milldyke
 - Dori Milldyke gave a comprehensive report on Citizen Corps citing citizen preparedness as a primary tenet of Citizen Corps. Dori gave an overall description of Citizen Corps and Cert as local programs which can be carried into Schools and local volunteer organizations. Recent CERT training took place in Hays Kansas, October 17-19. Future training in KC is under discussion. Local communities should be aware that the state will do what it can to help provide CERT training wherever desired. Further details are available in the handout provided by Dori, which is included in the meeting notebook.

- Fire Weather - Jennifer Stark
 - Jennifer provided an overview of products available from the National Weather Service, available since October 3, in the protection of life and property. Products include:
 - Rangeland Fire Danger predictor, which is issued by NWS Topeka around 5:00 am daily. This product includes categorical determination of fire danger, useful for predicting likelihood of range fire.
 - Fire Weather Planning Forecast which contains specific fire weather elements. Included in this forecast are such elements as Mixing Height, the Haines Index, Lightning Activity, level which predicts thunderstorm and, in particular, dry thunderstorm activity, Smoke Dispersal predictions and Transport wind activity. Transport wind activity may also be helpful in determining where hazardous chemicals or fumes are likely to be carried if such an event were to occur in Kansas.
 - Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch, which is base on a combination of Weather and Fuel conditions. Contact Fire Weather at www.weather.gov/topeka to request a spot forecast.
 - Jennifer suggested that with the redevelopment of El Nino, Kansas can expect a mild winter with above average precipitation in the western region. The warmer that usual temperatures may result in higher chances of range fires in the spring and summer months.

- Meeting adjourned
 - Closing remarks and informal announcements of upcoming events were provided by Major General Tod Bunting. The Committee intends to meet again in February. The

Committee is requested to fill out the supplied matrix of dates to aid the office in determining the next date. Kim Steves moved that the meeting be adjourned; the motion was seconded by Kevin Moles and passed unanimously.